packages offered by the service provider is required to be provided to TRAI at the end of the stipulated period of four months beginning 1st April, 2001. The service providers must also submit to TRAI amount of refund that could not be made because the subscriber could not be traced. TRAI would consider the option of appropriate utilisations of this amount.

Disinvestment of Government share in VSNL

4160. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to disinvest its equity in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited on 31st January, 2001;

(b) if so, whether Government has undertaken any exercise of re-evaluate assets of the company at the current rate;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is also a fact that most of the physical assets like real estate was acquired by the company at discount from the States because it has been a Central PSU; and

(f) whether States where such assets are located will be compensated on account of privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Government had taken a decision on 1.2.2001 to disinvest a portion of its equity in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited.

(b) to (d) the stage is not yet ripe for undertaking the exercise to re-evaluate the assets of the company.

(e) VSNL has not acquired any physical assets from the States at discounted prices on the basis of VSNL being a Central PSU.

(f) In view of (e) above, question does not arise.